



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516  
*An Equal Opportunity Employer*



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Linda Piotrowicz  
860-713-2558 or [Linda.Piotrowicz@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Linda.Piotrowicz@po.state.ct.us)

### The Hunt for Orange October

**Hartford, CT/October 2, 2006** – What single object best signifies October? The pumpkin, of course! Whether large or small, round and squat, or tall and narrow, no October would be complete without this brightly colored member of the squash family.

One of the first crops cultivated in New England, pumpkins have been harvested every fall for nearly four centuries. Records indicate that Colonists began planting the seeds in or around 1635.

According to Richard Macsuga, marketing representative for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the state currently grows an average of 25.6 million pounds of the orange globes annually on nearly 1,300 acres.

“Although the wet spring made planting a challenge for farmers,” said Mr. Macsuga, “Mother Nature rewarded those who persevered. The summer’s hot temperatures and ample moisture provided ideal growing conditions, resulting in abundant production.”

The search for the perfect pumpkin has become a cherished family activity. Combined with the hayrides, Chrysanthemums, corn mazes, and haunted houses offered by many farms, pumpkin hunting makes for a great weekend outing or day trip.

Pick-your-own outlets and farm stands expect the next few weekends to offer the best opportunity to find the perfect candidates for jack-o-lanterns, lawn decorations, and pies.

“Because some growers got the seed in late this spring,” said Don Dzen of Dzen Brothers Farm in South Windsor, “many pumpkins are just ripening now, and should be available right up until Halloween.”

For more information about where to pick or purchase pumpkins, visit the Department of Agriculture’s website at [www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/) and click on “Publications.”

**PURCHASE CONNECTICUT GROWN PRODUCTS**

Visit us at [www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/)

###